

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /082 W

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R 161543Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1459

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 0519

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN IRRITATION AT PLO

REF: CAIRO 0412; BEIRUT 431

SUMMARY. RECENT SNIDE COMMENTS BY PLO LEADERS ABOUT EGYPTIAN READINESS TO SACRIFICE ARAB UNITY TO GAIN SEPARATE PEACE HAVE INCURRED RESENTMENT OF POLITICALLY SENSITIVE EGYPTIANS FROM SADAT ON DOWN. EGYPTIANS, MORE AND MORE AWARE THAT THEIR ECONOMIC TROUBLES STEM FROM EFFORT ASSIST PALESTINIANS, ARE IN NO MOOD BE PATIENT WITH INSINUATIONS OF GOE IMMINENT SELL OUT IN SINAI COMING FROM PLO, SYRIA, LIBYA, OR USSR. SOVIETS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ENCOURAGING PLO'S "CAMPAIGN OF DOUBT". END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL GOE IRRITATION WITH PLO AS REPORTED CAIRO REFTEL IS ECHOED IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH EGYPTIAN CONTACTS. LOCAL ARAB JOURNALISTS, IN PARTICULAR, HAVE POINTED OUT TO US RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY YASIR ABD RABBO, AND ARAFAT'S RECENT  
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LE MONDE AND ANWAR INTERVIEWS, IN WHICH HE CHARGED THAT

EGYPT (CONTRARY TO GOE DISCLAIMERS) HAS RECEIVED USG-GOI  
SECOND STATE DISENGAGEMENT PLAN, AS HAS GOJ. WE ALSO NOT VOICE  
OF PALESTINE REPORT OF RADIO INDIA INTERVIEW WITH ARAFAT IN WHCIH  
LATTER CLAIMED AMERICAN PLAN HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO EGYPT AND  
JORDAN (FBIS TA 141957). LIBYANS ALSO SEEM TO BE SLINGING MUD  
AT SADAT'S ARABISM, JUDGING BY JAN 13 AL-SAFIR CHARGE THAT GOE  
IS ENDEAVORING ENSURE ARAB APPROVAL OF "SEPARATE SOLUTION".  
(FBIS BE 130056)

2. GOE HAS INSTRUCTED PRESS TO DEFEND IT AGAINST CHARGES THAT  
EGYPT SEEKS SEPARATE PEACE, OR IS ACTIVELY CONSIDERING SUCH  
PROPOSALS AS 12 YEAR CESSATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. ENTHUSIASM  
WITH WHICH EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS HAVE GONE TO GOE'S DEFENSE  
RELECTS DEEP DESIRE HERE FOR SECOND STATE WITHDRAWAL WITH OR  
WITHOUT MOVEMENT ON OTHER FRONTS, JUST AS LONG AS ISRAELIS  
EVACUATE ABU RODEIS OIL FIELDS AND SINAI PASSES. PRESS LAST FEW  
DAYS HAS CONTAINED LIVELY DENUNCIATIONS OF PALESTINIAN MISCHIEF  
MAKING, BUT UNTIL JAN 16 STOPPED SHORT OF CALLING PALESTINIANS  
BY THEIR NAMES; THEY WERE "CERTAIN FOREIGN QUARTERS".

3. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL JAN 14 DENOUNCED  
"REPORTS" OF GOE READINESS SIGN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, ON ISRAELI  
TERMS, AS UNFOUNDED AND REGRETTABLE, AND AN"EFFORT TO CONFUSE  
WHICH IS REJECTED" (BY ALL CLEAR HEADED ARABS). AHRAM JAN 15  
CONDEMNED "CAMPAIGNS OF DOUBT" LAUNCHED AGAINST EGYPT WHICH HAS  
EXPENDED MORE RESOURCES THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY FOR SAKE OF  
ARABISM. MUSA SABRI JAN 15 IN AKHBAR CALLED RUMORS OF 12 YEAR  
MILITARY FREEZE AND OF JORDANIAN AND EGYPTIAN WITHDRAWAL PLANS  
"DISGUSTING", IN VIEW HEAVY EGYPTIAN SACRIFICES ON BEHALF ARAB  
WORLD. SOURCES OF RUMORS ARE KNOWN, HE ADDS, AND THEIR PURPOSES  
UNDERSTOOD.

4. ON JAN 16, HOWEVER, PRESS COMMENTATORS BEGAN TO NAME NAMES--  
ARAFAT, SYRIAN MININFO, MOSCOW--AND TO ADD LIBYA TO EGYPTIAN  
BLACKLIST. AHRAM AND AKHBAR EDITORIALS CONDEMN "STRANGE" DOUBTS  
CAST BY ARAFAT ON EGYPT'S FOREIGN POLICY. MUSA SABRI DECLARES  
FURTHER SINAI WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY SARG AND PALESTINIANS.  
IT WOULD NOT MEAN FINAL SETTLEMENT AND "WOULD NOT TRANSFORM ISSUE INTO  
ONE OF BORDERS AS STATED BY SARG MININFO". IT IS "SHAMEFUL"  
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THAT HEROIC EGYPT SHOULD BE ACCUSED OF GULLIBILITY. SABRI ALSO  
TAKES CUT AT MOSCOW'S APPARENT SUPPORT OF ANTI-GOE CAMPAIGN OF  
DOUBT; IZVESTIA, HE SAYS, REPORTED SIMILAR VIEWS (E.E., DOUBTING  
EGYPTIAN ARABISM). LIBYANS DO NOT ESCAPE SCOLDING EITHER. TWO  
EDITORIALS IN AKHBAR JAN 16 CRITICIZE ARAB LEADER  
(CLEARLY QADHAIFI): "IN GOD'S NAME LEAVE US ALONE; DO NOT FORCE  
US TO BEGIN AGAIN WHAT HAS CAUSED OUR POVERTY (I.E., WAR)".

5. MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PRESS OFFICE PROVIDED INFO FOR JAN 15 FRONTPAGE STORIES, WHICH DECLARED GOE HAS CLEARLY EXPLAINED TO PLO THAT EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH RESISTANCE IS STRATEGIC, AND THAT EGYPT IS DETERMINED SAFEGUARD THE ARAB CAUSE AND PALESTINIAN INTEREST. (COMMENT: THE DISCRIMINATING READER UNDERSTAND THIS TO MEAN THAT GOE NEEDS NO ADVICE FROM PLO ON HOW TO HANDLE THESE MATTERS.) LOCAL PRESS ALSO CONTINUES TO REPORT ARAFAT IS EXPECTED HERE SOON.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY BEIRUT'S ANALYSIS OF PLO FEAR OF BETRAYAL BY GOE (BEIRUT 431) IS, IN OUR VIEW, RIGHT ON TARGET. AS BEIRUT POINTS OUT, PLO CAMPAIGN TO KEEP SADAT ON PLO DEFINED TRACK SEEMS ALREADY TO HAVE BEGUN. EGYPTIANS, HOWEVER, ARE IN NO MOON TO SYMPATHIZE WITH PALESTINIAN APPREHENSIONS, ESPECIALLY WHEN EXPRESSING SO JARRINGLY AND PUBLICLY AS BY ARAFAT. WITH EACH PASSING DAY, ECONOMIC SITUATION HERE SLIPS DOWN ANOTHER NOTCH, AND SADAT'S NEED FOR MORALE-BOOSTING SECOND STAGE WITHDRAWAL INCREASES. FURTHER, EGYPTIANS ARE SUFFERING ECONOMIC AUSTERITY IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF PALESTINIANS, AND DEEPLY RESENT BEING TICKED OFF FOR ALLEGED SUB-STANDARD ARABISM.

7. THESE VIEWS ARE WIDELY HELD HERE BY POLITICALLY AWARE EGYPTIANS, AND WERE FORCIBLY EXPRESSED TO SENATOR PERCY JAN 15 BY PRESIDENT SADAT, FAHMY, SPEAKER MAR'I, WHO DECRIED MALICIOUS ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS AND SAW SOVIET HAND IN ANTI-GOE CAMPAIGN.

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